



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 1 302 914 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**29.09.2004 Bulletin 2004/40**

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07F 17/32**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**16.04.2003 Bulletin 2003/16**

(21) Application number: **02022784.9**

(22) Date of filing: **11.10.2002**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR  
IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SK TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

(72) Inventor: **Okada, Kazuo**  
**Tokyo, 135-0063 (JP)**

(74) Representative: **Urner, Peter, Dipl.-Phys.**  
**TER MEER STEINMEISTER & PARTNER GbR,**  
**Patentanwälte,**  
**Mauerkircherstrasse 45**  
**81679 München (DE)**

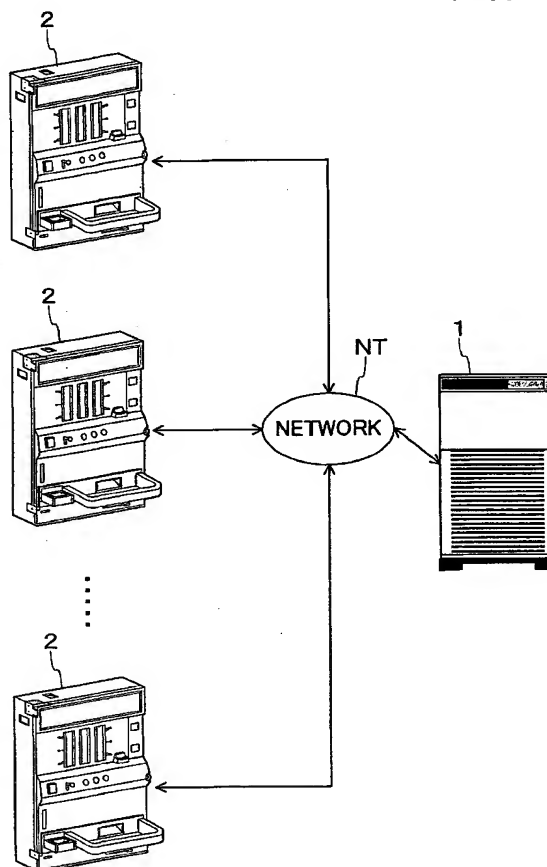
(30) Priority: **12.10.2001 JP 2001315488**

(71) Applicant: **Aruze Co., Ltd.**  
**Tokyo 135-0063 (JP)**

(54) **Game server, game control method, and game machine**

(57) A return is reliably executed to a player who has paid a predetermined amount to a game machine. The timing of this return is determined by lottery, and its result is displayed on the game machine. This thrills the player with expectation of the return, thereby keeping the player long on the same game machine. As the result, it is avoidable that the player waiting for a prize for a long time loses enthusiasm for the game and keeps away from the hall (i.e., a reduction in the number of customers).

**FIG. 1**



**EP 1 302 914 A3**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 02 2784

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 631 798 A (ACE DENKEN KK) 4 January 1995 (1995-01-04) * the whole document *	1-6	G07F17/32
X	US 6 254 483 B1 (ACRES JOHN F) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03) * the whole document *	1-6	
X	US 5 611 730 A (WEISS STEVEN A) 18 March 1997 (1997-03-18) * the whole document *	1-6	
X	US 5 639 088 A (PATCEG MILES MARTIN ET AL) 17 June 1997 (1997-06-17) * the whole document *	1-6	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 02, 30 January 1998 (1998-01-30) & JP 09 264777 A (TAITO CORP), 7 October 1997 (1997-10-07) * the whole document *	1-6	
A	DE 41 37 010 A (ORTLEPP WOLFGANG) 13 August 1992 (1992-08-13) * the whole document *	1-6	
A	GB 2 326 830 A (ROSART LTD) 6 January 1999 (1999-01-06) * the whole document *	1-6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>11 August 2004</b>	Examiner <b>Bohn, .P</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (P04/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 02 2784

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-08-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0631798	A	04-01-1995	AU 669161 B2	30-05-1996
			AU 3648593 A	05-10-1993
			EP 0631798 A1	04-01-1995
			US 5702303 A	30-12-1997
			CA 2131460 A1	16-09-1993
			WO 9317766 A1	16-09-1993
			JP 8029169 B	27-03-1996
US 6254483	B1	03-07-2001	US 5836817 A	17-11-1998
			US 5655961 A	12-08-1997
			AU 754444 B2	14-11-2002
			AU 3234699 A	30-11-2000
			CA 2272499 A1	29-11-1999
			US 2001055990 A1	27-12-2001
			ZA 9903643 A	29-11-1999
			US 2003228904 A1	11-12-2003
			US 6257981 B1	10-07-2001
			AU 686824 B2	12-02-1998
			AU 2719295 A	02-05-1996
			AU 3587895 A	06-05-1996
			AU 697582 B2	08-10-1998
			AU 4847897 A	26-02-1998
			AU 7416198 A	03-09-1998
			WO 9612262 A1	25-04-1996
			US 6565434 B1	20-05-2003
			US 2004002378 A1	01-01-2004
			US 5752882 A	19-05-1998
			US 5741183 A	21-04-1998
			US 5702304 A	30-12-1997
			US 5820459 A	13-10-1998
			US RE37885 E1	15-10-2002
			US 6319125 B1	20-11-2001
			US 6162122 A	19-12-2000
US 5611730	A	18-03-1997	NONE	
US 5639088	A	17-06-1997	NONE	
JP 09264777	A	07-10-1997	NONE	
DE 4137010	A	13-08-1992	DE 9101529 U1	08-05-1991
			DE 9110013 U1	24-10-1991
			DE 9112925 U1	30-01-1992
			DE 4137010 A1	13-08-1992
GB 2326830	A	06-01-1999	NONE	

EPO FORM P4459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82